

REMARKS

Claim 2 is pending in the application. Claim 1 has been canceled.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Stoecklein in view of Mattes is respectfully requested.

Stoecklein (DE 101 01 802 A1) shows a booster chamber 17 situated inside the outer piston 16, i.e. between both pistons 16, 18, for coupling both pistons 16, 18 in same direction. Stoecklein has no filling chamber connected to high pressure inside outer piston 16. The valve closure element 21 of Stoecklein is not force-balanced because the upper surface of inner piston 18 is pressurized with high pressure whereas the lower surface of inner piston 18 is pressurized with low pressure of discharge room 24. Please note, there is no reference number 52 in Stoecklein, as stated in the Office action.

Claim 2 differs from Stoecklein in:

(1) that the booster chamber 72 is situated at the ends of the pistons 39, 40 orientated away from the actuator, for operating both pistons 39, 40 in opposite directions;

(2) that a filling chamber 71-2 is provided inside the outer piston 39, the filling chamber 71-2 being connected to high pressure line 5;

(3) that the inner piston 40 is at least partially force-balanced due to the pressure acting on the upper piston surface inside filling chamber 71-2 and, therefore, control valve is also at least partially force-balanced.

Mattes (WO 01/31192 A1) shows a booster chamber 17 between pistons 9, 11, which are not situated one inside the other, but axially spaced to each other. The pistons 9, 11 are

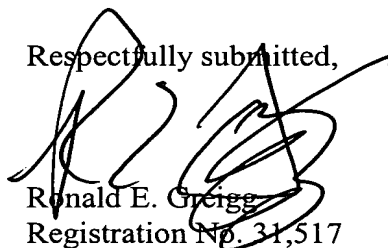
Appl. No. 10/565,559
Amdt. dated Feb. 9, 2007
Reply to Office action of Dec. 1, 2006

coupled by booster chamber 17 in same direction. Mattes has no filling chamber connected to high pressure inside the upper piston 9. Lower piston 11 is not force-balanced because the upper surface of lower piston 11 is pressurized with high pressure of pressure chamber 17 whereas the lower surface of inner piston 11 is in abutment on tappet 13. Mattes fails to disclose any one of the above differences 1 to 3. Please note, the pistons 9, 11 of Mattes are not mounted one inside the other, as stated in the Office action.

Accordingly, claim 2 defines new and non-obvious subject matter over Stoecklein and Mattes.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested and early allowance of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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